# Definition of Pollution Prevention

**Pollution prevention means:**

- **$** "Source reduction," as defined under the Federal Pollution Prevention Act (1990), and
- **$** Other practices that reduce or eliminate the creation of pollutants through:
- **$** Increased efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources, or Protection of natural resources by conservation.

**Source reduction**, as defined under the Pollution Prevention Act, is any practice which:

- **$** Reduces the amount of any hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant entering any waste stream, or otherwise released into the environment (including fugitive emissions) prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal, and
- **$** Reduces the hazards to public health and the environment associated with the release of such substances, pollutants, or contaminants.

**Pollution prevention may include:**

- **$** Equipment or technology modifications, Process or procedure modifications,
- **$** Reformulation or redesign of products, Substitution of raw materials, and
- **$** Improvements in housekeeping, maintenance, training, or inventory control.

**Pollution prevention does not include:**

- **$** Recycling, Energy recovery, Treatment, or Disposal
- **$** Some practices commonly described as "in process recycling" may qualify as pollution prevention. Recycling that is conducted in an environmentally sound manner shares many of the advantages of prevention - it can reduce the need for treatment or disposal and conserve energy and resources.

**Pollution Prevention**

- **$** approaches can be applied to all pollution-generating activities, including those found in the energy, agricultural, government, consumer, as well as industrial sectors.
- **$** decreases the risk of exposure for workers and others within industrial processes while also reducing the risk of accidents and environmental harm.
- **$** does not include processes that create new risks to human health or the environment.
- **$** in the agricultural sector may include reducing the use of water and chemical inputs, adoption of less environmentally harmful pesticides or cultivation of crop strains with natural resistance to pests, and protection of sensitive areas.

- in the energy sector, can reduce environmental damages from extraction, processing, transport, and combustion of fuels, including increasing efficiency in energy use, substituting environmentally benign fuels, and design changes that reduce the demand for energy.
- does not include any practice: which alters the physical, chemical, or biological characteristics or the volume of a hazardous substance, pollutant, of contaminant, through a process or activity, which itself is not integral to and necessary for the production of a product or the providing of a service.